



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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May 15, 2019

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE

Executive Director and

General Counsel

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cotton:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our support for the Restoring the Armed Career Criminal Act.

NAPO is a coalition of police units and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

Congress passed the Armed Career Criminal Act (ACCA) in 1984 to protect our nation's communities from the most dangerous violent criminals. Specifically, the ACCA established a 15-year mandatory minimum sentence for repeat violent felons convicted of unlawful possession of a firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) who have been previously convicted of serious felonies on three separate occasions.

When the Supreme Court effectively voided the ACCA in its decision in *Johnson v. United States* in 2015 due to part of the definition of "violent felony" being unconstitutionally vague, it took away an important tool that law enforcement used to get the worst career criminals off our streets. The Restoring the Armed Career Criminal Act will fix the ACCA by using a specific definition for "serious felony" and restore the Act, thus giving prosecutors and law enforcement back a significant resource in the fight against violent crime.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation. If we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director